


CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year ending
DECEMBER 1943.





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29087806>

CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report
for the year ending December, 1943.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers
and Staff of the Council for their valuable assistance.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	86,034
Population (modified figure).....	28,090
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1943 according to Rate Books).....	6,888
Rateable value (1st April 1944).....	£161,473
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£775

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are
agriculture, stone quarrying at Box and Corsham, and glove
making in Corsham.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., of Lowden Lodge, Chippenham, has been Medical Officer of Health since 1st June, 1938.

Dr. Broomhead in addition holds the position of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire and Medical Officer of Health for Chippenham Borough and Calne Borough.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH:-

T. BROWN, M.D., D.P.H., from 1st September 1941 to March 1943.

R. D. GRAY, M.D., D.P.H. from July 1943.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:-

E. W. STEVENS, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.S.E., who also holds the posts of Building and Sanitary Surveyor and Waterworks Manager.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS, &c.:-

G. E. WILLIAMS, Cert., S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

H. J. TAYLOR, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1943.

Live Births-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	218	196	414
Illegitimate.	8	15	23
	<u>226</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>437</u>

Birth rate..... 15.6 per 1000.
 Birth rate for E. & W..... 16.5 per 1000.

Still Births-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	9	8	17

Rate per 1000 total births..... 37.4 per 1000.

Deaths-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	129	107	236

Death rate (per 1000 population).. 8.4
 Death rate for E. & W..... 12.1

Deaths from Puerperal causes-

Puerperal Sepsis.....	0
Other Puerperal Causes.....	2

Death rate of Infants under one year-

All infants per 1000 live births.....	48.1
All infants per 1000 live births for E. & W..	49.1
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.....	36.2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.....	260.9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Whooping Cough.		2	2
T.B. Nose, Eye.	4	1	5
Other forms of T.B.	1	-	1
Syphilitic diseases.	2	1	3
Influenza.	3	3	6
Measles.	1	-	1
Cancer of buc.cav. & oesoph (M).	4	1	5
Uterus (F)			
Cancer of stomach & duodenum.	1	3	4
Cancer of breast.	-	8	8
Cancer of all other sites.	9	7	16
Diabetes.	1	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	15	8	23
Heart Diseases.	36	23	59
Other diseases of circ.sys.	4	7	11
Bronchitis.	5	3	8
Pneumonia.	4	3	7
Other respiratory diseases.	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	3	-	3
Appendicitis.	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases.	5	1	6
Nephritis.	3	5	8
Other maternal causes.	-	2	2
Prem. birth.	2	4	6
Conjugal birth inj. infant dis.	4	6	10
Suicide.	2	1	3
Road traffic accidents.	1	1	2
Other violent causes.	3	1	4
All other causes.	14	14	28
Diarrhoea, under two years.	-	-	-
Total	129	107	236

NUMBER OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES.

Typhoid Fever.	1.
Scarlet Fever.	77
Whooping Cough.	105
Diphtheria.	4
Erysipelas.	6
Measles.	322
Pneumonia.	20
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1		1	2					
5			3	2				
15	2	1	1				1	
25	3	1			1		1	
35	3	1	1					
45	3	1			2	2	1	
55							1	
65	1	1					1	
and upwards.								
	12	6	7	2	3	2	5	

SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING 1943.

Name of School.	Period of Closure. (inclusive dates).	Cause.
St. John's Conbe.	From 8.2.43 To 12.2.43.	Influenza.
North Wrexham.	From 19.7.43 To 13.8.43.	Whooping Cough.
Kingston St. Michael.	From 22.11.43 To 3.12.43.	Influenza.
Yarnton Keywell.	From 23.11.43. To 26.11.43.	Influenza.
Hedington.	From 23.11.43. To 3.12.43.	Influenza.
Castle Conbe.	From 24.11.43. To 3.12.43.	Influenza.
Griffithston.	From 26.11.43 To 3.12.43.	Influenza.
Lacock.	From 29.11.43. To 3.12.43.	Influenza.
Derry Hill.	From 29.11.43 To 3.12.43	Influenza.
Stanton St. Quintin.	From 29.11.43 To 3.12.43	Influenza.
Christian Malford.	From 29.11.43 To 3.12.43	Influenza.
Bremhill.	From 1.12.43 To 3.12.43	Influenza.
Sutton Benger.	From 2.12.43 To 3.12.43	Influenza.
West Kingston.	From 13.12.43 To 17.12.43.	Influenza.
Stanton St. Quintin.	From 20.12.43 22.12.43.	Influenza.

W A T E R S U P P L I E S

The Council's supplies generally were well maintained except for a short period during the Summer months, when in order to conserve water in the Box, Corsham and Colerne areas it was necessary to resort to an intermittent distribution. The position with regard to chlorination was the same as in the previous year, most of the supplies receiving treatment. The results of sampling were uniformly satisfactory. There are, however, two matters which merit detailed reference, viz:-

(a) R.D.C. Regional Water Scheme - Nettleton borehole.

(b) Corsham Waterworks Company - Loxwell Supply.

NETTLETON BOREHOLE.

It will be remembered that when the Council first decided on this site a well was dug to a depth of 30 feet, but that the yield of water was inconsiderable and it was decided to explore the deeper strata by sinking a borehole from the foot of the well. Samples taken during the boring showed that the water table some 60 feet from the surface was subject to pollution. Appropriate measures were therefore taken to exclude this water and the borehole was continued to a final depth of 380 feet where a satisfactory yield of pure water was obtained. Chemical analysis (June-October, 1936), however, revealed the presence of an unexpectedly high amount of common salt (approximately 60 parts per 100,000) and misgivings were expressed regarding the possibility of future taste troubles. The scheme was therefore temporarily abandoned, but in 1940, owing to the increased need for water, it was decided to review the position. The borehole was re-opened and submitted to a 7-days' continuous pumping test (August, 1940). Samples taken during this test confirmed the purity of the water and showed a lower salt content - an initial figure of 29 rising to 33.5 at the end of the test. Though it was impossible to predict the final level to which the salt figure might rise the risks were considered justifiable and permanent pumping plant, etc., were ordered. A further difficulty arose (June 1941) for it was found when the verticality test was applied that the borehole was not true and would not accommodate the usual arrangement of surface motor and driving shaft. This occasioned considerable delay and necessitated the provision of a submersible motor. The Station was finally ready for use by August, 1943, including chlorination plant and a suitable sampling tap for the collection of raw water.

It was decided to conduct a preliminary continuous pumping test to confirm, if possible, that the salt content would not become excessive. This was commenced on 16th August and samples were thereafter collected daily. The salt was found to rise in 10 days from 28 to 35 parts per 100,000 and bacteriological examination showed the water at the beginning and end of the test to be sterile.

The yield was confirmed to be up to expectation and the water was put into supply on the 26th August.

Samples for salt content were continued at fortnightly and subsequently monthly intervals and showed a gradual rise to 52 parts per 100,000 by the end of the year, while monthly bacteriological examinations gave constantly sterile results. There have been no complaints from consumers but rather the reverse for the water is softer and considered by some more palatable than that in the rest of the Regional system.

LOXWELL SUPPLY.

Numerous complaints continued to be received by the Council's officers from consumers resident in the area supplied by the Corsham Waterworks Company, in particular those districts receiving the foul water from the Loxwell Springs. Negotiations, initiated years previously, were still proceeding whereby the Council, as the only practicable remedy for this highly unsatisfactory state of affairs, were endeavouring to acquire the whole undertaking and in October of this year a contract was entered into for the acquisition of the Undertaking by the Council the Company acting as the agents of the Council pending completion of the purchase.

(The transaction was finally completed early in 1944 and a good water supply has since been assured to the consumers).

WIDDENHAM WATER SUPPLY.

Owing to the increased demands on this supply and the shortage of rain during the year (19.92 inches) it was not possible to obtain gaugings of the yield of the springs as there was no overflow from which to gauge.

WATER CONSUMPTIONS.

Average daily consumption:-	1943. gallons per day.
Box (excluding supply from Washwell and Bitteridge).	59,951
Colerne.	11,564
Yewstock Reservoir. (Borough supply to Regional scheme).	192,099
Kington Langley Reservoir.	16,323
Neston.	75,433 112,280
Corsham. (From January 1st until July 21st water was being afforded to the Corsham Water Company through the Corsham meter and that accounts for the high consumption).	Meter out of order for part of time from August to December.
Corsham Water Company. (Supplied through Corsham meter).	
3" meter.	26,106
2" meter.	32,039
Monks Lane 6" meter (Supply from M.A.P. main in Monks Lane)	93,958
Supply turned on 21.7.43.	
Colerne R.A.F.	80,381
Hullavington R.A.F.	51,525
Rudloe R.A.F.	24,626

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Parish.	Source.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Biddestone.	Springs Mill supply, Weavern.	1	-	-
Box.	Washwell (Springs).	2	-	-
	Ditteridge (Well).	1	-	-
Box, Corsham & Colerne.	Hungerford Wood Springs. (before chlorination)	-	-	4
	Hungerford Wood Springs. (after chlorination).	12	-	-
Bremhill.	East Tytherton-Wick Hill.	1	-	3
	Foxham - Stockham Marsh.	3	-	1
Pewsham.	Corsham Water Company's supply, Loxwell springs.	4	-	-
Pewsham.	Springs at Old Derry Hill.	-	-	1
Hilmarton.	Hilmarton Water Company's supply. Springs at Catcombe.	1	-	-
Nettleton.	New borehole.	4	-	-
Heddington.	Council Houses.	-	1	3
North Wraxall.	Public well.	-	1	-

NUMBER OF PRIVATE SAMPLES TAKEN AND SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS.

2 2 6

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF NETTLETON BOREHOLE TO DETERMINE SALINITY.- 16

All samples for Bacteriological examination and chemical analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

NEW WATER SERVICES.

Connections to the Council's Mains.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Number of Connections.</u>
Bor.	7
Brenhill.	3
Christian Malford.	3
Castle Combe.	10
Colerne.	4
Corsham.	6
Grittleton.	9
Kington St. Michael.	1
Nettleton.	4
Pewsham...	1
Sutton Benger.	2
Yatton Keynell.	9
	<hr/>
	59

RAINFALL FIGURES.

The rainfall figures for several years now have been provided by Colonel M. Earle, Hilmarton Manor, Hilmarton, to whom I am greatly indebted for this year's figures.

1943.

January.	3.87 inches.
February.	1.15
March.	.90
April.	.53
May.	2.35
June.	1.31
July.	.85
August.	2.55
September.	1.25
October.	2.35
November.	1.52
December.	1.29

19.92

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

There has been no material alteration affecting the above (with one exception) since the resume on this subject in the report for 1940.

The one exception refers to the Colerne Sewage Disposal Works, which, although they are the property of the Air Ministry, are maintained and managed by the Council. It was found necessary, owing to the inundation of the works, to construct a system of open irrigation channels into which the sewage gravitates from the storm water tank. This is now constantly used in addition to the Dortmund tanks owing to the surcharge.

While this alleviated the problem of the 'over-load', it unfortunately contributed to labour difficulty, already very acute, and only after making representations over a long period was the Council able to secure the services of an additional attendant at these works. Even the present staff are unable to deal adequately with the whole of the works, as the other attendant is only engaged part-time on that work.

Only a small area of the Parish of Colerne at present drains into these works. The scheme for sewerage the whole of the village was deferred owing to the War and will now be dealt with as a post-war priority scheme.

The Corsham Sewage Disposal Works, completed in 1940, have also been employed to capacity. Consideration was given by the Consulting Engineers to the construction of Digestion Tanks, utilising for this purpose, the old Settlement Tanks. The Council was unable to obtain a licence to proceed with this work, and so that scheme had to be abandoned. Consideration is, however, being given to the reconstruction of the sludge drying beds to facilitate drying of the sludge so that the Dortmund tanks can be 'sludged' more frequently.

During the year under review several combined sewage and surface water ditches were cleansed, usually in co-operation with the Highway Department of the Wilts County Council, and in a few cases improvements were made to these systems of drainage by participating with the County Council in piping the ditches or relaying sections of ditches, glazed stoneware or concrete pipes being used for that purpose.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Investigations were made regarding the alleged pollution of streams by the aforementioned works, and the action taken to improve the effluents at the respective works has already been enumerated.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This essential service of Public Health administration is undertaken by one Contractor.

The household refuse is collected in a properly designed scavenging vehicle and periods of collection vary according to the urban or rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly intervals.

Since the review on this subject in 1940, all the Parishes in the rural district, 24 in number, are receiving this service.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like are used for the deposition of refuse. Tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of any new tips, when they can be found, affords an opportunity for a method of controlled tipping to be introduced.

RAT AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACTS.

The sundry refuse tips in this district have been baited with a proprietary rat poison by the Council's employees.

In addition the Council engage the services of a professional Rodent Operator and the tips receive his attention twice annually. His services are very valuable as it ensures that the tips are kept reasonably free from vermin.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints have been received concerning offensive trades. All fish frying premises in the district have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1923.

There are no premises in this district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

Despite war conditions efforts have been made to maintain the sanitary services of the district in a satisfactory manner and, while there has been unavoidable suspension or curtailment of various duties usually performed under normal conditions, additional tasks were undertaken in respect of Salvage, War Damage, Food Decontamination Scheme, duties in connection with location and distribution of Morrison Indoor Table Shelters, etc..

SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING 1943.

Salvage.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper.	163.	13.	-	921.	8.	11.
Ferrous Metals.	21.	4.	-	32.	8.	0.
Non-ferrous metals.		15.	2	13.	0.	0.
Rubber.	4.	8.	-	9.	18.	0.
Bones.	5.	3.	2	24.	18.	7.
Rags.		1.	1		16.	0.
Totals	195.	5.	1.	£1002.	9.	6.

SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING 1943 BY VOLUNTARY BODIES & SERVICE DEPARTMENTS.

Salvage.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
Waste Paper.	138.	5.	2
Ferrous Metals.	54.	13.	2
Rubber.	7.	4.	1
Bones.		14.	3
Rags.	7.	1.	1
	207.	19.	1

KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTED BY FARMERS.

Parishes of Chippenham Without, Corsham & Box - 185 tons 14 cwts.

HOUSING.

No systematic inspection of houses has been carried out since the outbreak of the War. Complaints are received from time to time of defects and insanitary conditions, and all such cases are inspected. Every effort is made to deal informally with those cases that call for action.

Only in two instances was it found necessary to issue Statutory Notices.

Such methods, however, only touch the fringe of the problem. The shortage of labour and materials, increased cost of repairs, and greater wear and tear due to increased number of occupants, all contribute to an acceleration of the normal deterioration of working class property.

The housing shortage has become more acute during the year and houses that would normally be scheduled for demolition remain occupied.

Until labour and materials become freely available it will be impossible to make any headway with the repair and improvement of houses.

Owing to the movement of people in and out of this area consequent on war time developments and the billeting of evacuated persons it is difficult to say to what extent overcrowding (as determined by the standard laid down in the Housing Act, 1936) exists at the present time.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council has built 232 houses, situated in the following Parishes:

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	
Biddestone.	2	
Box.	30	
Bremhill.	7	
Calne Without.	20	
Cherhill.	18	
Christian Malford.	14	
Compton Bassett.	4	
Corsham.	68	
Heddington.	6	
Hilmarston.	11	
Kington Langley.	12	
Kington St. Michael.	6	
Lacock.	21	
Nettleton.	2	
Sutton Benger.	11	Total 232.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT 1923.

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS ETC.

Parish,	New Dwelling Houses.	Alterations & Additions to existing houses.	Garages.	Miscellaneous laneour.
Biddestone.	1	-	-	-
Box.	-	-	-	6
Bremhill.	-	-	-	-
Calne Without.	-	-	-	-
Castle Combe.	-	1	-	-
Cherhill.	-	-	-	1
Chippenham Without.	-	-	-	2
Christian Malford.	-	-	-	1
Colerne.	-	-	-	-
Compton Bassett.	-	-	-	-
Corsham.	-	3	1	8
Grittleton.	-	1	-	-
Heddington.	-	-	-	-
Hilmarton.	-	2	-	-
Kington Langley.	-	-	-	-
Kington St. Michael.	-	-	-	1
Lacock.	-	-	-	2
Langley Burrell Without.	-	-	-	-
Nettleton.	-	-	-	2
North Wraxall.	-	-	-	-
Pewsham.	-	-	-	-
Stanton St. Quintin.	-	-	-	-
Sutton Benger.	-	1	-	-
Yatton Keynell.	-	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>23</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1943.

Milk Supply.

Number of Farms on Register: 501

Summary of Work carried out.

Total number of farms inspected
during the year..... 192

Farms requiring structural alterations,
cleansing, etc..... 88

Farms having structural alterations and
cleansing completed..... 11

Farms found to be in a satisfactory
condition..... 93

Total number of inspections 249

Prosecutions were instituted in two cases for flagrant disregard of some of the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1936. convictions were obtained and a substantial fine was imposed.

The structural condition, the water supply and methods of milk production are unsatisfactory in some farms.

The inadequacy of the legislation relating to clean milk production, the present shortage of materials and labour for structural improvements and improved water supplies, and the limited time at the disposal of Inspectors for supervision, are the chief difficulties that stand in the way of more rapid improvement.

Other Foods.

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption:

<u>Name.</u>	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>Weight. lbs.</u>	<u>Condition.</u>
Pearl Barley.	1	135	Infected with Weevils.
Sugar.	1	74	Contaminated with disinfectant.
Mergoline.	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rancid.
Corned Beef.	8	6	Decomposition.
Ox tongue.	1	3	"
Fork Luncheon.	3	2	"
Stewed Steak.	3	3	"
Prepared Meal.	1	1	"
Evaporated Milk.	9	9	"
Salmon.	1	3	"
Pilchards.	1	1	"
Baked Beans.	3	3	"
Apples.	2	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Plums.	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Rhubarb.	2	2	"
Peas.	11	7	"
Biscuits.	1	161	Mice & contamination.
Beef.	1	42	Decomposition.
Pigs. (2)	1	290	"

There are no Slaughterhouses operating in the district since the outbreak of the War, and slaughtering is now centralised in the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Chippenham. Your Inspectors occasionally do the inspection at the Abattoir to relieve the Inspector for the Borough of Chippenham.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Visits to Farms and collection with systematic	
Housing Inspections.....	25
Houses Repaired.....	8
Council House Inspections.....	503
New Building Inspections.....	257
Houses connected with water mains of Council.....	59
Water Samples secured for analyses.....	69
Waterworks, Main Extension, etc., Inspections.....	612
Privy Vaults converted to Pail Closets.....	-
Privy Vaults converted to Water Closets.....	-
Earth Closets to Water Closets.....	-
New Pail Closets.....	-
New Water Closets.....	23
New Drainage systems provided to old premises.....	38
Inspection of sewage works, sewer extensions	
and drainage systems.....	127
Inspection of Refuse Tips.....	59
Inspection of Farms and Dairies.....	232
Slaughter-house inspections.....	20
Overcrowding complaints dealt with.....	3
Factory and Workshops Inspections.....	24
Preliminary Notices served.....	82
Statutory Notices served.....	-
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease.....	80
Nuisances' Inspections.....	102
Inspections under the Petroleum Act, 1926.....	14
Inspection of Food Premises.....	18

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. D. GRAY.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.